to Rs. 76.68 crore each have been released to the State Government on 31st July 2007 and 4th February 2008 respectively.

Clemency to convicted persons

2565. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court had questioned the right of clemency being granted to certain convicted people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently Government of Andhra Pradesh had released 1500 prisoners granting clemency;

(d) if so, whether any compensation to victims of these prisoners was worked out; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) Orders issued by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 7th August, 2007 for considering special remission to the life convicted prisoners and non-life convicted prisoners on the occasion of commemoration of 150 years of First War of Independence were challenged in a Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 100 of 2007 in the Supreme Court. The Honourable Court initially stayed further action by the State Government but later permitted the State Government to continue the process of preparation of prisoners list meeting the parameters laid down in the Government Orders. The Court subsequently vacated the stay granted by it in respect of non-life convicted prisoners but the stay on the life convicted prisoners continues.

(c) According to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, no prisoner has been released.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Reconstruction of damaged infrastructure due to natural disasters

2566. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that CRF/NCCF provisions do not take into account permanent reconstruction, drought proofing and mitigation requirement in infrastructure sectors damaged in natural disasters and the entire burden is to be borne by State Government;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide financial assistance to State Governments to rehabilitate and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure; and

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to create a new financing mechanism for the reconstruction of public infrastructure assets damaged in natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) The present schemes for constitution and administration of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) based on the recommendation of 12th Finance Commission (2005—10) stipulate for providing financial

assistance by the Central Government to the States affected by severe natural calamities for meeting the expenditure on immediate relief. As per the scheme, the expenditure on restoration of damaged infrastructure and capital assets should be made from the normal budgetary head except when it is to be incurred as a part of providing immediate relief.

In its recommendations concerning the requirement of funds by the States for reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, 12th Finance Commission noted "expenditure on restoration of infrastructure and other capital assets, except those which are intrinsically connected with relief operations and connectivity with the affected area and population, should be met from the plan funds. 12th Finance Commission has also noted "the restoration of damaged infrastructure has to be planned very often to new standards, arrived at after detailed analysis of the phenomena and also it has to be done by following the prescribed procedure, which obviously, is not possible as part of any immediate relief programme" and recommended "the provision for disaster preparedness and mitigation needs to be built into the State Plans and not as a part of Calamity Relief."

Taking into account the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the States have been projecting their sector-wise requirements of funds for long-term reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in their successive Annual Plans.

(c) No, Sir.

Action to check road rage accidents in the metros

2567. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road rage has considerably increased in the metros of the country;

(b) the number of persons killed in the road rage accidents in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in the last one year; and

(c) the action being contemplated to check road rage accidents in the metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data on 'road rage' accidents. However, Delhi Police has provided the following data relating to 'road rage' accidents in Delhi:

Year	Cases registered
2005	18
2006	27
2007	27
2008	12

upto 31-03-2008

(b) According to Delhi Police, one person was killed in 'road rage' accident in Delhi during 2007. Such data in respect of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata is not available.

(c) 'Road rage' is basically an attitudinal problem. Delhi Police has taken the following measures to control 'road rage':